

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

University Relations News Archive

External Relations

10-8-2013

Koester '16 Partners with PRCA

University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news

Recommended Citation

University Relations, "Koester '16 Partners with PRCA" (2013). *University Relations News Archive*. Paper 162.
http://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news/162

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the External Relations at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Relations News Archive by an authorized administrator of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact skulann@morris.umn.edu.

Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications
Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

Koester '16 Partners with PRCA

Summary: Jayce Koester '16 organized summer arts programming with the Center for Small Towns and the Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance.

(October 8, 2013)-Jayce Koester '16, Eagan, worked with the Center for Small Towns and the [Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance](#) (PRCA) to organize summer arts programming for the Morris area. He was responsible for coordinating outreach activities and connecting local artists and community members to share knowledge and creativity.

Over the summer, Koester organized three garden-themed arts workshops, which provided painting, paint-making, poetry, and photography opportunities to the community. Koester also organized and ran a week-long summer arts camp for elementary students. Participants explored various media and applications of art, and the camp culminated in a short presentation for parents and community members. As a final project, Koester worked on a mask making workshop featuring Twin Cities-artists Julie and Gustabo Boada.

Koester commented that the most difficult part of the project was working with the community for the first time. "I didn't really know much about Morris as a larger community, and working for the PRCA really forced me to reach out to people beyond the campus." He added that although working with the community felt foreign at first, he had a very positive experience from the project.

The mission of the Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance is to advocate, promote, and coordinate arts, heritage, and cultural activities in Stevens County and the surrounding area by supporting the creativity of all people, welcoming and celebrating a variety of cultures and perspectives, weaving arts, culture, and heritage into the fabric of the community, and creating a physical place to see, do, and experience art, culture, and heritage. Additional information is available online at prairierenaissance.org.

The University of Minnesota, Morris Center for Small Towns (CST) is a community outreach program that serves as a point-of-entry to the resources of the University of Minnesota. Small towns, local units of government, k-12 schools, nonprofit organizations, and other University units are able to utilize the Center's resources as they work on rural issues or make contributions to rural society. Their mission is to focus the University's attention and marshal its resources toward assisting Minnesota's small towns with locally identified issues by creating applied learning opportunities for faculty and students.

This project was partially supported by an operating support grant to the University of Minnesota, Morris Center for Small Towns from the Otto Bremer Foundation.

A puppet created during a summer workshop at the PRCA. Jayce Koester '16, Eagan, helped organize the event.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.